United Nations A/55/671

General Assembly

Distr.: General
6 December 2000
English
Original: French

Fifty-fifth session
Agenda item 48
The situation of democracy and human rights in Haiti

Letter dated 4 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 1 December 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union on the presidential and senatorial elections in Haiti (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 48.

(*Signed*) Jean-David **Levitte**
Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 4 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of France to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and French]

Statement on the presidential and senatorial elections in Haiti issued on 1 December 2000 by the Presidency of the European Union on behalf of the European Union

The European Union takes note of the announcement by the Provisional Electoral Council of the election of Mr. Jean-Bertrand Aristide in the presidential poll held in Haiti on 26 November 2000.

It deplores the fact that the presidential and senatorial elections on 26 November 2000 were preceded by a wave of violence, including a series of explosions which claimed many victims, killing two children in particular.

The Union regrets that the efforts of the Organization of American States (OAS) did not lead to an agreement, particularly on two vital issues:

- setting up an independent Provisional Electoral Council, representative of the range of opinion in the country;
- addressing and resolving the disputes arising from the contested elections held on 21 May 2000.

The opposition refused under these circumstances to present any candidates, and no international observer mission could be organized.

The European Union stresses the need to respect human rights and democratic pluralism. It urges the resumption of dialogue among all sections of Haitian society.

The European Union points out that, following the refusal of the Haitian authorities to take account of the findings of OAS on the elections of 21 May 2000, it initiated the consultation procedure provided for in article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement in order to seek measures to remedy the situation, but it does not rule out the possibility of readjusting its cooperation with Haiti if no acceptable solution were to be found.

The Central and Eastern European countries associated with the European Union, the associated countries Cyprus, Malta and Turkey, and Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, European Free Trade Association countries members of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this statement.